

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended.) A method for acoustic emission analysis of a non-compacted granular composition comprising a biologically active compound, said method comprising colliding the non-compacted granular composition with at least one surface transmitting low frequency vibrations, recording low frequency vibration data in the range of 10 Hz to less than 50 kHz, arising from the collision, with at least one vibration detecting sensor and subjecting the recorded low frequency vibration data to computerized data processing.

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Claim 2. (Original.) The method according to claim 1, wherein the low frequency vibrations has a frequency between 32 Hz to 25.6 kHz.

Claim 3. (Original.) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the low frequency vibrations is a frequency below 15 kHz.

Claim 4. (Original.) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vibration detecting sensor is a piezo-electric sensor.

Claim 5. (Original.) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vibration detecting sensor is an accelerometer.

Claim 6. (Original.) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data processing is selected from the group of Fast Fourier Transformation, Power Spectral Density, Principal Component Analysis, Partial Least Squares Regression, Principal Component Regression, Multiple Linear Regression, Neural Network or a combination thereof.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biologically active compound is in a purified form.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biologically active compound is selected from bio-catalysts, therapeutic agents, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides.

Claim 18. (Original.) The process of claim 17, wherein the acoustic emission analysis is performed on-line and in real time during the granulation process and is repeated more than one time during the granulation process.

Claim 19. (Original.) The process of claim 17, further comprising the step of changing at least one process parameter as a result of the acoustic emission analysis.

Claim 20-21 (Canceled)

22. (Original.) A granulation or coating apparatus comprising

- (a) a granulation or coating device comprising at least one chamber for processing material into granules or coated granules,
- (b) an arrangement for performing acoustic emission analysis comprising at least one vibration detecting sensor capable of detecting vibrations in the range of 10 Hz to less than 50 kHz and optionally amplifying and filtering units and a computer unit.

Claim 23-26 (Canceled)
